**Wildwood Dancing Discussion Questions**

* 1. Some reviewers thought this book moved slowly in some places. Did this book grab you immediately, or did it take a while to “get into it?” Were you engaged throughout?
  2. Which characters make sacrifices in this novel? Who do you think sacrificed the most for what they wanted? Do you think it was worth the sacrifice?
  3. Wildwood Dancing is based in part on the fairy tales “The Twelve Dancing Princesses” and “The Frog Prince.” Do you know either? How does Marillier’s retelling of each tale as an integral part of *Wildwood Dancing* detract or enhance the story’s main theme? Which fairy tale is the stronger of the two in the book? Is this story a true retelling of one or both of these fairy tales? If so, how? If not, how do they differ? Why does Marillier choose to use a “fairy tale” to tell her story? How does incorporating a re-told tale impact the reader’s experience with the story?
  4. In the original Brothers Grimm version of the tale, the Princess throws the Frog against a wall out of anger, and he unexpectedly becomes a prince. In Marillier's version, Jena kisses the Frog as an act of friendship and sign of her love for him. How does this twist change the story? How does it make the story resonate with you?
  5. Gogu says to Jena, “Trust is a thing you know without words.” What does he mean? How do these words foreshadow what will happen later in the book? Why does Jena leave Gogu after his transformation? If you were Jena would you? Why? Why not?
  6. Who are the “Night People” and why is Jena afraid of their presence in the Dancing Glade? Why does Tatiana’s involvement with Sorrow scare Jena? How is his name appropriate to who he is and his relationship with Tatiana? What does Paula mean when she tells Tati, “…Sorrow could be anything at all. The face he shows you may be only the one he wants you to see.”
  7. Jena tells Cezar, “But you’re a leader—you should be setting an example, not charging forward with the scent of blood in your nostrils and blind hatred in your heart. No matter how cruel the blow of losing your brother, it should never have made you lose your sense of what is right.” What does Jena mean by this? Does Cezar have a clear sense of right and wrong? When did he lose it? Or didn’t he? What is the “Evil Joke” someone played on him? And who played it?
  8. Is *Wildwood Dancing* an appropriate title for this book? Why? Why not? What does the “wildwood” represent to Jena and her sisters at the outset of the book? Does that change? If so, how? What does it represent to Cezar? What does it mean to those who are from the “Other Kingdom” and the “Night People”?
  9. Some reviewers felt that the main characters could have been more deeply developed. Did you feel connections to many of the characters, or only to Jena?
  10. Did you like the ending? Why or why not? (One reviewer wrote, “The ending was unsatisfying. Not that I cared much, but we never find out what happens with Tati and Sorrow. Do the sisters ever get to go back to visit them? What about the poor souls trapped in the Dark Ones' World? And what happens to Cezar? “)